

How to Identify and Initiate an Appropriate Research Project

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Research

“Research” refers to a systematic investigation or “re-search” with the intention of establishing facts, verifying existing facts, and reaching new/updated conclusions.

Research usually involves:

- explorations
- fact-findings
- experimentation
- analysis
- testing
- examination.

Basic research

- **Provides/creates new knowledge or seeks to expand existing knowledge;**
- **Makes contribution to theoretical questions and literature;**
- **Product of research does not promise immediate physical solution;**
- **Sometimes provide a guide to policy issues/decisions;**

What do you want to do?

What do you want to find?

What solution do you want to provide?

Most research endeavours begin with identifying a problem (a research problem); or by asking research question? A basic research may want to ask a theory-base question or test the validity of existing theories on new contexts / environments and phenomena.



Some research problems for a basic research may stem from:

- **A gap in literature;**
- **Shortcoming of research theories in the face of new social/cultural realities and contextual dynamics.**

Applied Research

- **Seeks to provide answers for real life questions;**
- **Seeks to provide solution to social/economic/political problems in the real world;**
- **Products of research is often tangible, marketable or visible (e.g. technological innovations; inventions or scientific creativity).**

Applied Research Problems

Applied Research problems are often draw from observing and identifying social needs, economic needs etc., (e.g. those that relate to health, security, economy, education etc.)

What you need to identify and initiate a research project

- **Observation;**
- **Passion;**
- **Positive thinking;**
- **Analytical mind;**
- **Collaboration (especially in the sciences)**



Thank you

for

Listening!